

# CRACKDOWN SMACKED DOWN

## Park Slope parents, teachers use meeting to blast NYPD's 'racist' teen-shooing tactic

By Matthew Perlman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Stay in the neighborhood.  
That was the resounding message of a community meeting held at Park Slope's John Jay Educational Campus last Friday in response to the just-launched police initiative to disperse groups of teens wherever they gather, in neighborhoods from the Slope to Dumbo. Officers from Fort Greene's 88th Precinct and Downtown's 84th Precinct detailed the larger anti-teen hangout initiative in an exclusive report by this paper.

Parents, teachers, and students assembled in a cafeteria at the Seventh Avenue schoolhouse, many of them wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the message "I Love John Jay" and an anti-racism logo, blasted the tactic, saying people of all ages and races have a right to congregate in the community.

"This is unwarranted, unfair harassment," said Adam Stevens, an African-American Flatbush resident and parent of a sixth grader. "The moment they leave the building, they're made to feel unwelcome."

Parents called the forum after white Sloper Sara Bennett said at a 78th Precinct community council meeting that she witnessed police following a group of black teens down her block in a squad car last month, ordering them to leave over the loudspeaker. Bennett, a yoga teacher and former lawyer, said the scene reminded her of apartheid.

"The police were following the kids yelling at them to get out of the neighborhood," she said. "It felt like South Africa."

A neighbor said she saw officers shooing the youngsters that day and, though she didn't hear the inflammatory command, she thought the tactic was the wrong way to handle the situation, and that it wasn't anything new.

"This wasn't the first time I've seen the NYPD behaving this way towards students," Lee Solomon said.

Brass from Fort Greene's 88th Precinct, Park Slope's 78th Precinct, Downtown's 84th Precinct, the police Transit Bureau, school safety agents, and managers from Atlantic Terminal mall, the



**PLUS** TEEN KNOCKED OUT BY COP — A FOLLOW-UP  
SEE PAGE 2

Barclays Center, and MetroTech Center all met in mid-September after a group of teens brawled with cops in the plaza in front of the Barclays Center. Cops later told residents at a Fort Greene community board meeting that fights break out when large groups of teens gather, and that the precincts' top cops decided the way to deal with the

problem is to keep the kids moving. A civil rights lawyer called the strategy "straight up unconstitutional."

A Community Affairs officer with the 78th Precinct said its officers weren't invited to the town hall forum, and none attended. A commander from the division that patrols the campus did show up, and told a reporter his offi-

cers don't shoo youths.

"We don't tell the kids to leave," said Lyndsey Martinez, deputy director of the School Safety Division. "We just want to make sure the dismissals are orderly."

The claim runs contrary to an NY1 report in which a camera crew filmed a school safety agent telling students, "Let's go. Let's go. Let's go." The agent then broke the lens off the news camera and, when the team reassembled it, tried to block the camera with her hat. The NYPD is investigating the behavior,



(Left to right) A little help from her friends: Students support a girl speaking out against her treatment by police during a forum at John Jay Educational Campus in Park Slope on Oct. 10. Lyndsey Martinez, deputy director of the police department's school safety unit. Jill Bloomberg, principal of Park Slope Collegiate.

ior, according to the NY1 report.

Martinez told the crowd of about 100 that there is a problem with police-teen relations, and that he will try to fix it.

"There are clearly some issues. This is the first we're hearing about it," he said. "We're not perfect. We'll make some changes at this school if need be."

The words did little to assuage the anger of the stream of black and Latino students who took to a microphone to talk about the persecution they feel outside school walls.

"I can't go anywhere in the neighborhood without being looked at in a certain way," said Phedon Thomas, a junior from Park Slope Collegiate, one of the four schools that share the campus. "It's overwhelming."

Ethan Edobor, another junior from Park Slope Collegiate, said he had been kicked out of a restaurant by police for

a fight he had nothing to do with. He just happened to resemble the people involved, he said.

"They're judging people by the way they look," he said of the police and store owners in the area.

Park Slope Collegiate's principal echoed the sentiment and said she was glad everyone turned out to sound off in support of the youth.

"They absolutely have every right to be here," said principal Jill Bloomberg, who is white. "It was great to have community members come out and say to the kids that they are welcomed. It's very sad that they needed to do that."

Neighbors say schoolkids can be a pain, but that they've never gotten out of control.

A manager at a Seventh Avenue pizzeria said kids from John Jay schools can crowd the tables when class lets out, but that's about as far as it goes.

See **TEENS** on page 12



The unattended bags beside Pier 2's basketball courts are ripe for the plucking.

## Playing easy to get

### Brooklyn Bridge Park is now a thief's haven

By Matthew Perlman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Bridge Park's new basketball and handball courts are all fun and games — until somebody's stuff gets stolen.

The new sports facilities have become a hot spot for thefts since they opened in Brooklyn's front yard in May, according to crime reports.

There have been 15 robberies and thefts in the park since June, with eight in August alone, according to this paper's police blot-

ters. Most of the crimes involved people leaving their stuff unattended, especially while playing basketball or handball, the local top cop said.

"A lot of people, when they're enjoying the park, leave their bags lying around," said Capt. Sergio Centa, commanding officer of the 84th Precinct.

That is exactly what happened in the latest reported crime, when a sneak stole a man's bag inside the park on Oct. 1, police said.

The 30-year-old victim told

cops he was near the entrance on Joralemon and Furman streets at 9:55 pm, and left his bag sitting out for five minutes. When he returned, the bag, which contained a canteen, debit and credit cards, and a cellphone, was gone, cops said.

Park honchos expect the crowds to get bigger as the amenities expand — and police say the crime will get worse, too.

"It's something we'll be looking at as the park continues to grow," Centa said.

## Middle East conflict hits Barclays

### Pro-Palestinian protester breaks Jewish-org director's nose after game

By Matthew Perlman  
The Brooklyn Paper

A pro-Palestinian protester punched the director of a prominent Sheephead Bay Jewish organization in the face outside of an exhibition basketball game at Barclays Center last Wednesday night, according to police.

The attack came at 10 pm, after an exhibition game between the Brooklyn Nets and Maccabi Tel Aviv, a professional Israeli basketball club. Palestinian-rights activists unfurled Palestinian flags inside the arena during the game, kicking off a confrontation that spilled outside, according to police, and left Kings Bay Y head Leonard Petlakh with a broken nose, according to the Y. Petlakh was with his kids at the game and accused the attacker and his allies of racism cloaked in political hostility, calling them "vile anti-Semitic hooligans masquerading as anti-Zionists." He said he hopes his children learn from the experience — and pledged that they will sign up for the Israeli army one day.

"I am upset that my children witnessed this unprecedented violence," he said in a statement. "But I hope it sends a strong message to them to stand up for their values as proud Americans and as those who will eventually volunteer to serve in the Israel Defense Forces."

When the pro-Palestinian agitators unfurled the flag in the stands, Petlakh's group was nearby and someone he was with snatched it away, police said. The subsequent face-off prompted security to kick out everyone involved, according to the NYPD. Then, in the plaza in front of the Rust Bowl, a man hauled off and hit Petlakh, fracturing his nose and leaving a cut that required eight stitches to close, a Kings Bay Y



Photo by Steve Solomonson



Photo by Paul Martinka

The longstanding hostility between Israelis and Palestinians flared up outside Barclays Center on Oct. 7. (Right) Leonard Petlakh, executive director of the Kings Bay Y, lights a giant menorah at the Y in this file photo.

spokeswoman said.

Assemblyman Steve Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay) also called the incident an anti-Semitic attack and said police and security stood by and let it happen.

"It's terrible that Leonard's children had to witness their father being brutally attacked," said Cymbrowitz in a statement. "And it's equally outrageous that a violent display of anti-Semitism wasn't stopped before it got out of control."

The Police Department's Hate Crimes Task Force is investigating the assault, a police rep said.

The game was preceded by a reception honoring soldiers wounded during the recent war in Gaza.

Pro-Palestinian protesters were a vo-

cal presence outside of the arena and during the game.

One group that organized a demonstration outside of the arena denounced the attack.

"Jewish Voice for Peace deplores the violent incident at last night's Nets and Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball game at Barclays Center," said Naomi Dann, a spokeswoman for Jewish Voice for Peace. "We send our sympathies to Leonard Petlakh."

Dann said none of her organization's members were in the arena, and that protests out front ended peacefully about two hours before the incident occurred. Pam Sporn, who was part of the Palestine contingent out front, said she was sexually harassed by Israel supporters as the crowd broke up.

"Three young men with Israeli flags harassed us and said that we 'need Israeli d---'," she said in a statement.

Cymbrowitz insists that cops and Barclays security dropped the ball by failing to keep the feuding factions apart.

"Given the advance notice, both the NYPD and Barclays should have been ready with enough personnel and security measures to keep the protesters apart from the attendees and avoid even the possibility of violence," he said.

Police described the suspect as a man standing 5-feet-8 and weighing around 160 pounds. He was wearing a Nets T-shirt with "BK" spray-painted on the back, cops said.

The Barclays Center and the Nets declined to comment on the assault.



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Horse dung at the end of Huntington Street in Gowanus.

## This is horse----!

### Manure dumped beside Gowanus

By Noah Hurowitz  
The Brooklyn Paper

What a load of crap.

Somebody dumped a whole heap of horse manure at a dead end beside the Gowanus Canal last week. The culprit may have been trying to avoid the hassle of trucking the equestrian waste to nearby farms, which stable owners and farmers we polled said is standard practice.

Our eagle-eyed photographer spotted the two piles of plop on Oct. 6 at the end of Huntington Street, between Smith Street and Brooklyn's nautical purgatory. And by the looks of it, they came out of more than one animal. The nearest horse housing is Kensington Stables, two and a half miles away in Windsor Terrace. The stable's owner said his 30 horses produce far more waste than what was dumped canal-side, and that they've got it covered.

"We don't have any issue with manure because it all gets shipped upstate," said owner Walker Blankinship, explaining that his company pays to

have the poop hauled away.

An upstate small-farm-food distributor said that, while cow manure is widely used as fertilizer, horse dung isn't produced in enough volume around here for it to have become a hot commodity, and that the cost of transporting it from New York City generally outweighs what farms might pay.

"If you're in the city, no one is going to make money selling horse manure upstate," said Paul Alward, of the New Paltz, New York company Hudson Valley Harvest.

Some city horse operations contract with rural mushroom farmers, who grow toadstools out of the road stools, Alward said. Jamaica Bay Riding Academy in Mill Basin does just that, a worker said.

Horse feces can carry lethal bacteria, but the city treats dumping it the same as unloading household garbage, a sanitation department spokesman said. The agency started investigating the dumped dung after we called, the spokesman said.



# Youths: Police the problem

Friends of teen knocked out by cop say officers often harass them

Police have so far refused to release the name of the officers involved in the Hamer incident.

# Getting techy

## Burglars strike Dumbo hub

Photo by Jason Speakman

Five businesses were ransacked in Dumbo.

pounds, cops said.

The theft came nine days after a prowler broke into Dumbo digital-marketing company Huge and absconded with three laptops.

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# Where art meets tech

## Sunset Park’s Eyebeam is a creative laboratory

By Matthew Perlman  
The Brooklyn Paper

A workshop for techie artists and artsy technologists moved to Sunset Park recently for what was supposed to be a short stay, but now it is sticking around for a while.

Eyebeam had plans to move into a shiny new building in the so-called “Brooklyn Cultural District” in 2016, once construction wrapped up on its new digs in Fort Greene. But after schlepping from the Chelsea section of Manhattan to Industry City in Sunset Park earlier this year, the heads of the arts group decided to pull out of the Fort Greene plan, saying they signed up for it in haste.

“We went into it without really analyzing what it would mean for us,” said Patricia Jones, executive director of the group. “We didn’t really think through the ramifications.”

The group focuses on making art using technology, not on showing it off, and a space so close to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Theatre for a New Audience, and Bric House would have meant putting a lot of resources towards public displays, Jones explained.

“It would have skewed a lot of attention away from the actual making of art and moved it more towards showing art,” Jones said. “We’re not an exhibition space. We’re more like a work in progress.”

The group formed in 1997 in a neighborhood on the distant island of Manhattan known mostly for its warehouses and industrial space. But as years passed, more and more luxury housing went up around its headquarters.

“When we opened in Chelsea, it was still very much a working neighborhood,” Jones said. “But when we left there were a lot of high-end condos. It was a changing neighborhood.”

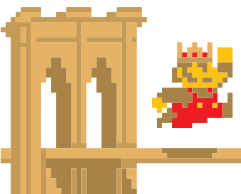
Eyebeam’s building eventually sold, and the group looked across the East River to find a new home.

“We felt that Brooklyn was a much more comfortable fit for us,” Jones said.

The space in Industry City was only supposed to be Eyebeam’s home base until



Eyebeam executive director Patricia Jones says Brooklyn is home to the perfect mix of artists and tech types.



### CIRCUIT LORD

Eye on technology and innovation in Brooklyn

the Lafayette Street building went up, but now the group is considering staying permanently. Jones said that the do-it-yourselfer community there, and in much of Brooklyn, is right up Eyebeam’s alley.

“There’s a really interesting mix of artists and technologists here,” she said. “We see this as fertile ground for collaboration.”

Eyebeam gives grants and workspace access to residents and fellows who are working on art projects that utilize new technolo-

gies. And since the group is new to the area, its leadership also wants this year’s projects to give back to Brooklyn.

One of the fellows, Torkwase Dyson, is planning to build a solar-powered, communal art space in the Surfside Community Garden in Coney Island.

Another project, by residents Chloe Vareli and Atul Varma is Minicade, a planned platform for creating, collaborating, and sharing simple video games. The pair hopes to use the system get Brooklyn teens as interested in making games as they are in playing them.

Jones said that the residents are picked for having innovative ideas and showing they can make them a reality.

“We look for artists and technologists that seem to be breaking new ground,” she said. “But we also want them to have the skills and track record that say they can complete the project.”

#### Techno Files

A new car-share service called Car2Go launches in

Brooklyn on Oct. 25. The company offers members access to a fleet of Smart cars through an app. It charges users by the minute, hour, or day, and unlike competitor Zipcar, Car2Go wheels can be left in any un-metered parking space, as well as in designated lots.

... The new “nyc” domain hit the internet last week, giving New Yorkers the opportunity to jazz up their URLs. Ten thousand businesses and groups registered for one of the new addresses before the domain even went live, the city said.

... Pratt Institute is holding a day-long digital arts festival on Oct. 18. “Pratt Upload: Meme, You, and Everyone We Follow” will include workshops, panel discussions, and displays from artists working in new media. Among the art discussed will be Zach Blas’s “Facial Weaponization Suite,” in which he created bizarre-looking masks based on composites of many people’s facial scans, in protest of facial recognition software.

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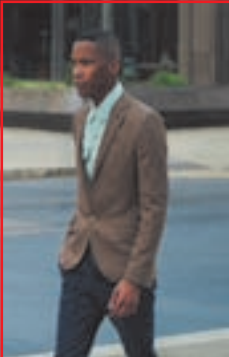
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# Call, interrupted: Cops threatened with phone D'town

## 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights—DUMBO—Boerum Hill—Downtown

Police arrested a man who they said threatened officers with a phone after he made a call without permission in the Human Resources Administration office on Court Street on Sept. 30.

Cops said the 65-year-old suspect entered the office between Livingston and Joralemon streets at 4:30 pm, and was told to leave. The man stayed and made a call from the office phone, and when officers arrived to remove him he allegedly resisted arrest and threatened them with the phone, according to a police report.

When the officers tried to take him into custody, he supposedly started punching and scratching the cops, the report says.

### Trust issues

Someone stole a laptop and debit card from a John Street art and media space on Sept. 30, according to police.

The 31- and 23-year-old victims told cops they went to a meeting inside the cultural building between Pearl and Jay streets at 10:37 am. One left his laptop and the other left her wallet unattended in the common area, they said. They returned 15 minutes later to find their stuff taken, according to the authorities.

Someone used the woman's credit card at Macy's

before she could cancel it, cops said.

### Mean teens

A group of belligerent teens punched a man in the face and stole his cellphone on the corner of Clinton and Joralemon streets on Sept. 30, the authorities said.

The 35-year-old victim said he was walking home at 7:20 pm when a group of youths approached him, socked him in the kisser, and took his phone. The kids took off on Joralemon heading towards Court Street, according to a police report.

Cops tracked the phone to the intersection of Bedford and Gates avenues before it went dark, the report states.

### Sleeper creeper

A sneak tiptoed into a Hicks Street apartment on Oct. 2 while the residents were asleep and bagged \$50 in cash, a laptop, and a debit card, police said.

The 26-year-old man and 36-year-old woman said they were sawing logs in their apartment between State Street and Atlantic Avenue when the thief struck, sometime between 10:45 am to 11:10 am.

Their front door was unlocked and they noticed the items were gone two hours later, according to a police report.

### Snap attack

An unhinged man chucked his Snapple bottle at a guy during a dispute in front of an Atlantic Avenue store on Oct.

2, then busted the store's window, according to cops.

The 27-year-old victim said he was in a fight with the angry fellow on the sidewalk of Atlantic Avenue between Third and Fourth avenues at 5:30 pm when the guy threw his juice, hitting him in the arm.

Then the lout picked up the bottle, and threw it through the store's front window, cops said.

### Dog days

A crook snatched a woman's cash as she was buying a hotdog from a street vendor on Joralemon Street on Sept. 29, officers stated.

The 55-year-old woman said she was at the hotdog cart between Court Street and Boerum Place at 5:45 pm and placed her purse on the shelf.

Then the thief came up, pushed her, grabbed the handbag, and jetted, NYPD officials said. The woman said her bag contained \$250 in cash.

## 88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene—Clinton Hill

**Sick days**  
Police received reports of three apartment break-ins in the precinct this week, all of them during daylight hours.

• The first crook stole a laptop from a Clermont Avenue apartment on Oct. 8, cops said.

The 37-year-old victim told officers she left her apartment between Myrtle

## POLICE BLOTTER

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and Park avenues at 8:30 am to go to work. When she returned at 4:30 that afternoon, her belongings had been moved around and the front window was propped open with the screen pushed in, according to a police report. The only item missing was the computer, the report says.

• Another burglar hit on Myrtle Avenue the next day, absconding with a grab bag of electronics, police reported.

The 26-year-old resident said she left her building between Washington Avenue and Hall Street at 9:30 am and did not come back until 3:30 pm.

When she arrived, the front door had been damaged and two laptops, an electronic tablet, and a camera were all missing, according to the authorities.

• Residents reported a third break-in at an apartment on Clinton Avenue on Oct. 11, cops said.

The 29-year-old victim told police she left the apartment between Gates Avenue and Fulton Street at 11:40 am, and returned at 2:51 pm to find her things in disarray.

Her bedroom window had been opened from the top, and the front door to the apartment had been left open, according to a police report.

cording to a police report. The crook took a laptop, a camera, some loose change, and a gym bag, law enforcement officials said.

### Swarm embrace

Two brutes forced a woman to hand over her purse in front of a Waverly Avenue building on Oct. 12, police said.

The 26-year-old victim said she was between Wiloughby and DeKalb avenues at 2:50 am when the pair came up behind her. One of the galoots grabbed her and she threw her purse and cellphone on to the sidewalk, according to cops.

The pair of punks picked up the items and took off on foot down Waverly towards DeKalb, the authorities said.

### Broken windows

Cops cuffed a man who they say resisted arrest after passing between cars on a moving train near the Clinton-Washington station on Oct. 10.

Officers saw the 30-year-old suspect walking from car to car on a C train that was pulling into the station on Fulton Street and Washington Avenue at 4:50 pm, according to a report.

When police confronted the fellow, they say he started

flailing his arms and resisting being handcuffed. He bit two officers in the struggle, one on the forehead, the other on the hand, cops said.

### Shaky case

Police arrested a man in East Flatbush on Oct. 4 for allegedly stealing a CitiBike in Fort Greene, after stopping him on apparently bogus grounds.

Officers stopped the 20-year-old suspect on Church Avenue between E. 53rd and E. 54th streets at 12:47 am for not having a proper helmet, according to a police report. The problem with that claim is that bike helmets are not required by law.

When cops checked out the bike they found it did not belong to the suspect, and that it had been taken from the bike-share dock at Hanson and Ashland places at 11:59 pm on Oct. 1, according to cops.

### Bar fly

A quick-moving crook grabbed a woman's bag from under her table in a Clinton Avenue bar on Oct. 11.

The 26-year-old victim told police she was in the tavern between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue at 9:15 pm, and left her purse on a chair tucked under her table while she said goodbye to her friends.

When she came back five minutes later, the bag was gone, cops said. It contained debit and credit cards, and a pair of burgundy Prada sunglasses, according to a police report.

glasses, according to a police report.

— **Matthew Perlman**

## 78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

### Fight fright

A woman fought off a mugger at the Seventh Avenue F and G train station on Oct. 2, cops said.

The 21-year-old victim was walking down the stairs to the platform at the station at 7 pm when a lout in jogging clothes ran up, grabbed her, and reached for her cellphone and wallet, a report says.

The woman wasn't going to give her stuff up quietly, though. She beat back the man and he ran off down the Coney-Island-bound F tracks, police reported.

### Injury to insult

A bandit rolled a homeless man on Fourth Avenue on Sept. 29, cops said.

The victim said he was drinking a beer between 12th and 13th streets at around 5 am when the fiend came up to him and asked for the time, then clocked him in the face.

The thief took off running with the man's bookbag, which contained a cellphone and \$25 in cash, cops said.

Responders transported the 51-year-old victim to Lutheran Medical Center, where he was treated for lacerations to his face, according to a report.

### Break it off

A heartless bandit pocketed a woman's engagement ring in a Park Slope burglary on Oct. 3, cops said.

The ne'er-do-well entered the home on Garfield Place between Fifth and Sixth avenues by jimmying the lock on the front door sometime between midnight and 8 am, as the victim slept, according to a police report.

Once inside, the burglar swiped the \$17,000 engagement ring, two iPhones, two iPads, and a Samsung laptop, items worth \$22,000 altogether, cops said.

## 76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens—Cobble Hill—Red Hook

### Follow their gut

A pair of galoots stuck up a food delivery man bringing food to a building on Centre Mall on Oct. 13, cops said.

The 45-year-old victim was carrying an order of Chinese food to a building between Henry and Clinton streets at 9:30 pm when one of the hungry highwaymen approached him brandishing a silver handgun, according to a police report.

The delivery guy forked over the food, his cellphone, and \$85 in cash, and the brutes scampered off down Henry Street in the direction of Lorraine Street, police recounted.

### Soil change

A thief stealthily pilfered a bunch of money from a car parked on Baltic Street on Oct. 13, a report states.

The vehicle's owner said he was across the street from his car, parked between Hoyt and Bond streets in Gowanus, from 7 to 8:15 am as he painted a truck, according to the authorities.

Sometime during that window, a punk snuck into his unlocked car and extracted \$1,100 in cash, two checkbooks, a black wallet, blue jeans worth \$150, and driver's licenses belonging to the man and his wife, cops said.

Police are checking to see if surveillance cameras cover the area where the larceny occurred, a spokesman said.

### Speedy getaway

A would-be stick-up guy got left in the dust when the taxi driver he was trying to rob on Clinton Street on Oct. 10 drove off, cops said.

The hack was picking up a fare at the corner of Mill Street in Red Hook at 2:40 am when the tough waving a silver revolver attempted to strong-arm her, per law enforcement officials.

The cabbie burned rubber and left the guy in the dust, cops said.

A report described the wannabe crook, last seen trotting down Mill Street in the direction of Henry Street, as 5-feet-7, 250 pounds, and wearing a green vest.

— **Noah Hurowitz**

## 68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge—Dyker Heights

### Long con

Someone scammed an Ovington Avenue woman out of \$10,000 over the last year, cops said.

A caller phoned the woman, who lives between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge, several times between Jan. 1 and Oct. 8, telling her she owed back taxes, police said.

The caller instructed her to buy a prepaid card to send him the money, which she did, according to a police report.

### Purse purloined

A ne'er-do-well stole a woman's purse after she left it unattended in the bathroom of an Eighth Avenue store on Oct. 12, law enforcement officials related.

The woman left her purse in the lavatory between 63rd and 64th streets in Dyker Heights at 3 pm and returned minutes later to find that someone had taken it, a report states.

### Cat burglar fever

A thief climbed through a window and stole \$500 cash and a cellphone from a Ridge Boulevard home on Oct. 7, per cops.

The resident left the house between Wakeman Place and 67th Street in Bay Ridge at 5:40 am, and when he got home at 4:44 pm, he realized someone had scaled the fire escape, climbed through a window, and taken his stuff, police said.

— **Max Jaeger**

## 94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint—Northside

### Uninvited guest

A teen burglar busted into a woman's Meeker Avenue apartment as she was sleeping on Oct. 12 and scrambled with her cellphone when she woke up to find him in her bedroom, police said.

The 26-year-old victim said she went to sleep at 6 pm on Oct. 12 in her apartment at the corner of Graham Avenue and woke up 15 minutes later when she felt something moving on her bed.

She saw the hoodlum trying to take her laptop charger, she said, and asked him who he was, a police report states.

He claimed a mutual friend had said he could borrow her stuff, but when she asked which friend, he dashed out, according to officers. She then realized that her cellphone was missing, NYPD officials said.

### So metal

A sneaky thief stole 100 feet of electric copper wire from a Kingsland Avenue business on Oct. 4, police said.

A manager of the business between N. Henry Street and Greenpoint Avenue told police he came to work at 5:30 am and found all the wiring connecting the business's generators missing.

There is a camera in the lot, but it was not working at the time of the theft, police said.

### May I have this?

Someone stole a backpack that a woman left on the floor of a Bedford Avenue nightclub on Oct. 4, police said.

The woman said she went to the club between N. Seventh and N. Eighth streets at 1:15 am and set her backpack on the floor while she danced.

When she came back 20 minutes later, the bag, which contained her laptop and camera, had been taken, officers recounted.

### Produce goods

A rude customer stole a wallet from a man who was working at a Manhattan Avenue produce store on Oct. 10, according to the authorities.

The victim reported that he was helping a customer at his place of employment between Nassau and Norman avenues at 12:20 pm when he saw a no-goodnik make a beeline to the counter and throw on his jacket.

The crook took it off quickly and left, and the victim did not think anything of it until he found his wallet, credit cards, and identification gone a couple of hours later, police said.

## 90TH PRECINCT

Southside—Bushwick

### Bars none

A crew of cretins attacked a guy and robbed him of his phone on Manhattan Avenue on Oct. 10, police said.

The victim said he was at Moore Street at 3:15 am when between three and five goons surrounded him. One shoved him down, another kicked him in the back of the head, and a third climbed on top of him and snatched the device out of his hand, officers said.

The victim said he didn't get a good look at the culprits.

### Serial taker

A prowler burgled a Rodney Street apartment and stole all four occupants' computers within a half-hour time frame on Oct. 10, law enforcement officials said.

One of the victims said that he left his dwelling between S. Third and S. Fourth streets at 11:30 pm. When he returned at just after midnight on Oct. 11, his computer was nowhere to be found, cops said. In his roommates' rooms, he found the other computers taken.

— **Danielle Furfaro**

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BP PARENT

# Back into college life

Parents Weekend arrived at my daughter's college and, with care package in hand, I headed to campus expecting to go to workshops and events, be celebrated for sending my progeny, and be handed lots of swag. Instead, the first thing my daughter said upon arrival was, "Let's get out of here, now!"

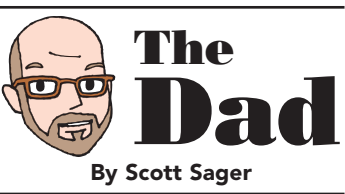
Either she hadn't looked at all the fun things going on, had other plans for our time together, or both. Parents Weekend to her meant having me around, with car and wallet in hand. We did some shopping, stocked her mini-fridge, and ate some nice meals together. I missed out, however, on the "We Love Parents" speech by the president, the "Thank You Parents" luncheon and the "Parents are Great" meeting with her class dean.

My daughter is thankful

for her college experience, for sure, but there are moments when it's easy to feel my role is simply sending in the checks. Getting a little recognition feels good, so if her school wants to throw me a little party, I'm happy to oblige and feel a little more connected to my girl's experience.

It is easy to forget how consuming campus life can be and how engrossing and important everything seems. While the school put up signs declaring "Parents Welcome," my child was still storming ahead with her day-to-day life. I could follow along, mostly, as long as I didn't get in the way.

She was stage manager for a play about to start performances and I got to meet the



**The Dad**  
By Scott Sager

writer and director, a classmate of my daughter's. I saw where the show would go on and got to review the proofs of the poster as they flashed on her smartphone. In her room, I was put to work fixing the printer and getting a pump for the flat tires on her bicycle.

We found a good diner not too far away and got some Thai take out so she could rush off to another rehearsal. Saturday night we managed to squeeze in a nice family dinner before she headed back to help her dorm prepare for an event they said was a poetry read-

ing but sounded like a party to me.

I certainly got a feel for her life — where she is spending her time, what she is busy doing, who she is hanging with. I even got a campus tour, sort of, as I drove her around, dropping her one place or another.

It wasn't the weekend I expected: no wine and cheese receptions, no lectures by the faculty and administration, no meeting other parents and sharing perspectives on our children's new phase in life.

I left, though, feeling like a parent because I had spent the weekend with my child, sharing a little bit of her fun, tiring, exciting life and, after a quick stop at the bookstore — where I bought myself a college sweatshirt and a sticker for the car — I had my swag too. It was a great parent's weekend after all.



(Top) Students from the Williamsburg Northside Lower School form a peace sign in honor of a visit from the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus. (Above) First-grader Arlo Scherr tries out a keyboard.

## Day trippers

### Williamsburg kids tune up on John Lennon's birthday

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

They had a ticket to ride. Hundreds of elementary school kids swarmed the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus last Thursday like it was some kind of yellow submarine. The bus, which is decked out with musical equipment, made a stop on its magical mystery tour at Williamsburg Northside Schools for what would have been Lennon's 74th birthday. Given the state of music education in schools these days, the organizers say they want to show kids they can write songs and record music with a little help from their friends.

"With schools cutting funding for music education, we offer the kids something to get them to be creative and think differently," said Matthew Reich, United States tour coordinator of the Lennon bus.

The team has been driving Lennon's tribute car for 17 years, Reich said. A day in the life of the vehicle and its engineers typically consists of them teaching kids how to pen a tune, then spending the day showing them how to record, mix, and shoot a music video for it.

The prekindergarten-through-fourth-grade kids at Williamsburg Northside Schools got to try their hands at guitar, drums, bass, keyboard, percussion, and singing — with some twisting and shouting for good measure.

"We show them all sorts of instruments they have not had the opportunity to try before," Reich said.

Since there were so many kids running on and off the bus, as if for their lives, the engineers set up jam stations and a photo-booth tent outside.

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This year's Halloween weekend celebration is bigger and badder than ever! Along with the Wildlife Witch show, visitors can learn all about Rodrigues fruit bats, watch baboons get their very own treat-filled pumpkins, or create a creepy craft. The fearless can visit the Spooky Barn, a haunted habitat experience, or boogie to Halloween tunes with the Sea Lions. Kids can join the spectacular Halloween parade, and take a photo with costumed creatures along the way.

The Wildlife Conservation Society's Prospect Park Zoo — \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors 65 and older, \$5 for kids 3-12, free for children under 3. Zoo hours are 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. weekdays,



and to 5:30 P.M. on weekends and holidays, April through October. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. November through March. The Prospect Park Zoo is lo-

cated at 450 Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. For further information, call 718-399-7339 or visit [www.prospectparkzoo.com](http://www.prospectparkzoo.com).



**Boo at the Zoo activities include:**

- **Discovery Center** — The zoo's interactive play center will be open both days with games and crafts, all decorated for Halloween. (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)
- **Bat Chats** — Visitors can learn all about Rodrigues fruit bats in the nocturnal area. (11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.)
- **Pumpkins for Baboons** — The zoo's baboon troop will get tasty treat-filled pumpkins. (2:30 p.m.)
- **Face Painting** — Zoo-goers will get in the spirit of the season with colorful face painting. (Noon to 3 p.m.)
- **Costume Parade and Dance Party** — Children will participate in a fun costume parade and party in the Sea Lion Court. (Parade Time: 3:45 meet at barn; Dance Party: following the zoo's 4 p.m. sea lion feed)
- **Costumed Character Scavenger Hunt** — Visitors will have the opportunity to take photos with the zoo's costumed characters. Those who meet all of them will complete a scavenger hunt and col-

lect a prize. (11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

- **Spooky Barn** — The barn area will be transformed into a haunted habitat, decorated festively for Halloween. (Please note: This activity is for older children. Noon to 3:30 p.m.)
- **Wildlife Witch Shows** — Visitors will enjoy an educational play about creepy creatures and a witch's potion. Live animal encounters are part of the fun. (Show times are 12:30, 1:30, 2, 3:15, 3:45 and 4:30 p.m. in the Zoo Theater.)



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# A royal flush!

## Parks wants \$2.4-mil. toilets for Hook

By Noah Hurowitz  
The Brooklyn Paper

The city’s budget of \$2.4 million for a pair of bathrooms is a steal, according to the head of a local panel.

The budget for the bathroom plan at Louis Valentino, Jr. Park raised eyebrows among locals, but the administrator of the neighborhood’s Community Board 6 said the big price tag isn’t unusual for a city construction job.

“People who are unaccustomed to dealing with government capital projects are likely to experience sticker shock when it comes to the amount that these things cost,” district manager Craig Hammerman said.

The project calls for separate men’s and women’s facilities containing four toilets altogether. Part of why it will cost so much is that new, post-Hurricane-Sandy flood regulations require it to be built at least three feet off the ground, a parks department spokeswoman said.

“Although all of these elements add to the cost of construction, it is vital that we make these investments now in order to ensure the long-term resilience of our facilities in the event of severe weather,” rec rep Meghan Lalor said.

The original plan for the bathroom, presented in September, placed the bathroom smack in the middle of the park, angering Red Hookers who said it took up too much space, blocked the view of the harbor, and cost too much.

The city went back to the drawing board and, though the budget remains the same, park designers won some neighbors over with new



plans at an Oct. 9 meeting. One of two new bathroom plans calls for the new structure to be placed in the corner of the park furthest from the end of Coffey Street, and to come with a shorter wheelchair ramp and sit closer to the ground, meaning it should end up costing less. A second plan shows the facility placed between the middle of the park and the corner.

One park lover said that no matter where it is placed, the toilet hut as designed is an out-of-place eyesore.

“This will be a postmodern droplet in the middle of a Civil War-era warehouse district,” said CJ Dallett.

But another resident in attendance said adding loos is crucial if the park is going to serve people who don’t live in holding-it distance.

“This park is a gem for the whole city,” said John McGettrick, a longtime Red Hook activist. “We owe it to them to share this unique space.”

The parks department has not yet released a timeline for the project, and designers plan to draw up one more set of plans before making a formal proposal to the community board’s parks committee.

Councilman Carlos Menchaca (D–Sunset Park), who called the meeting, told attendees that it is not too late to scrap the bathroom plan entirely, noting that it wouldn’t mean \$2.4 million leaving Red Hook.

“Those are City Council dollars, and if we do decide to end this project, our money will stay here,” he said.

If the latrines get built as budgeted, the bill for them will only run a seventh of the \$16.5 million Carmine Carro Fieldhouse in Marine Park, which cost more than three times the Freedom Tower per square foot and had to close shortly after opening because a city contractor installed a set of locks backward.

(Top) Kevin Quinn, chief of architecture and engineering with the parks department, answers questions about the new Valentino Park bathroom plans at a meeting on Oct. 9. (Above) Councilman Carlos Menchaca said it is possible to scrap the multi-million dollar bathroom project.

# Supersized

## Doctors at former LICH site to get roomy digs

By Matthew Perlman  
The Brooklyn Paper

They’ll have a lot of room to stretch out.

New York University reached an agreement with developer Fortis Property Group last Thursday to double the amount of medical space in its planned healthcare facility inside the luxury residential complex on the former Long Island College Hospital campus in Cobble Hill. The state touted the move as the silver lining in the fraught process of closing and selling the former medical center, but glossed over the fact that staffing levels at the new facility would stay about the same under the latest terms.

“This is a tremendous outcome under any circumstance, but especially given the many roadblocks and difficulties we have faced trying to close the deal,” State University of New York chairman Carl McCall said.

The university closed the lease, and publicized some of the details of the planned medical outpost, in conjunction with Fortis finalizing terms of its purchase of the land from the state. The new medical development is set to include a new, \$175-million building standing four stories and housing a staff of 400, including 70 doctors, according to New York University Langone Medical Center.

Services in the newly constructed medical center are supposed to include an emergency department, ambulance operating rooms, spe-

cialty practices, a cancer center, a clinical laboratory, and radiology services. Lutheran Medical Center is supposed to also open a health clinic somewhere in Brooklyn as part of the deal.

The university is set to assume control of the current emergency department, which the state is operating for now, once the state comptroller and attorney general sign off on the sale. It has pledged to operate the interim emergency unit, which it has already invested \$5 million in, until the new building is complete in 2018. All that’s left now is getting signatures on paperwork, according to a rep for the Manhattan-based hospital chain.

“We are now awaiting necessary regulatory and governmental approvals. Once secured, NYU Langone will move quickly to finalize site preparations, deploy staff and commence operation of a full-service [emergency department] under NYU Langone’s license,” a spokeswoman said.

Fortis has agreed to reimburse the state for running the emergency department from May 23 until Aug. 31 — when a lawsuit filed by staffers unions nearly scuttled the deal. Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Johnny Lee Baynes threw out the lawsuit after McCall threatened to walk away from the emergency room.

The university now says it hopes to return ambulance service to the site “as soon



The ambulance bays at Long Island College Hospital are shuttered because the facility no longer accepts ambulances.

as possible.” Once ambulances are back, university bean counters expect the center to treat 35 to 50 patients a day and employ two private ambulances to transfer patients to nearby hospitals when needed.

Jon Berali, a Brooklyn Heights physician and longtime advocate for keeping the Cobble Hill hospital open, said the latest iteration of the redevelopment plan is no good because it still lacks a full-service hospital, and that the lack of one will kill people.

“Certain treatments, particularly for heart attacks and strokes, are very time-sensitive,” he said. “This doesn’t help anyone who’s in a real emergency.”

Fortis has so far released very few details about its planned development on the two square blocks of land with views of the Statue of Liberty. The compound is supposed to include rental units, condos, and townhouses, one quarter of them below-market-rate, according to a preliminary proposal.


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(718) 260-2500 *aper's essential guide to the Bor* *gs* October 17-23, 2014

Off the map: The Way Station owner Andy Weidel and band booker James Coyle search for Staten Island on a bike map of New York City.

# Shaolin plugs in!

*Bands from mysterious island to rock P'Heights venue*

By Max Jaeger  
The Brooklyn Paper

This is the first we've heard of it. Native musicians from a remote island are bringing their indigenous sounds to urbane Brooklyn. Four bands from bucolic Staten Island (pronounced stat-NUY-lin) will perform their people's traditional music at Prospect Heights bar the Way Station on Oct. 18.

The mist-shrouded rock is home to a sea-faring folk who travel by ferry and once farmed the New York Harbor's vast oyster beds. Archeologists believe the "Forgotten Island" is actually part of New York City — thanks largely to Manhattan historical records showing that 65 percent of Staten Islanders voted to detach from New York's amble bosom in 1993. The city blocked the island's secession. But despite an isolated existence, a plurality of musical styles has flourished on its verdant shores, an event organizer said.

"There's not one particular sound coming from Staten Island," said Way Station booker James Coyle. "Even though they're from same borough, they all sort of have different sounds."

Indeed, the showcase promises an eclectic mix you would be "doozy pots" to miss, as the locals say.

Jam band Tom Cintula and the Buf-

## Rock of the Rock

You may be surprised to learn that Staten Islanders possess the fine motor skills to tune a guitar, but it turns out this sleepy little burg has birthed a whole litter of big-time acts. Here are some you might even be familiar with.

**Christina Aguilera**  
Miss "Genie in a Bottle" herself was born at Staten Island Hospital. Unfortunately, her family moved to Texas when she was a kid.

**The Wu Tang Clan**  
The Mystical Land of Shaolin's greatest claim to fame, The RZA, Raekwon the Chef, Inspectah Deck, Ghostface Killah, and Method Man all honed their verbal kung-fu at the temple of the Rock.

**Vito Bratta**  
As the lead guitarist for Danish-American glam rock band White Lion until 1992, Bratta was the pride of Staten Island.

**David Johansen**  
This New York Doll might

have felt "Stranded in the Jungle" in a wholly different sense growing up on Staten Island's verdant shores.

**Vernon Reid**  
The genre-bending six-string gunslinger of Living Colour fame was born in London, but Staten Island became his adopted home.

**Gene Simmons**  
The freaky-tongued Kiss frontman went to Richmond College before he started wearing makeup and chowing on packets of fake blood.

**Blackie Lawless**  
Without Staten Island, the world would not have W.A.S.P. — the hair metal footnote was fronted by this Island native.

**Doll face:** New York Dolls' vocalist David Johansen grew up on the exotic Staten Island, and still honors his heritage with traditional dress such as leopard print.

### MUSIC

**Staten Island Invades Brooklyn at the Way Station** [683 Washington Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (347) 627-4949, [www.waystationbk.com](http://www.waystationbk.com)]. Oct. 18 at 8 pm. \$5 suggested donation.

falo 24 will headline the show, with support from dream-punk trio Yeti, acoustic guitar virtuoso Vinny Bunnicelli, and seven-piece "apocalyptic Americana" band Carl Gallagher and the Off-Track Bettors. Ethno-musicologists should take special interest in the latter two acts, which may provide the clearest insight into indigenous music from the borough that did not join the city's electric grid until 1952.

The bands have made past pilgrimages to Brooklyn, Coyle said. But this is the first time all four acts have been able to simultaneously secure documentation to travel to our cultural mecca. And they will have to make the perilous journey on their own, because the trip is not a cheap one.

"We really enjoyed all of them individually," Coyle said. "The original idea was to get a party bus to take bands to the show, but it would have been too expensive with tolls."

### MOMS

## Bosom buds

Two women share a sly smile and a nod in the park. One of them tries to quickly come up with an opening line.

No, they are not looking for their next date. They are moms out looking for friends who are also moms, which can be a trying, thankless endeavor, according to one mother.

"It is a lot like dating," said mom, author, and WNYC personality Hillary Frank. "You have some false starts and meet some very nice people, but it is hard to find someone you actually click with."

Frank is trying to make it a bit easier to form these elusive connections with a new bar night called Speed Dating for Mom Friends, taking place at the Bell House in Gowanus on Oct. 22. The event is aimed at pairing up mommies with similar life- and mommy-styles, said Frank — all in the space of a few hours.

"When you have a baby, you do not have a lot of time for socializing, so you have to make it worth it," she said. "This way, moms can talk to a lot of other moms at once and find moms who fit them."

The night will be set up the same as a regular speed-dating night. Each pairing will get four minutes to chat. At the end of the four minutes, everyone at one side of the room will move down one seat to make all new pairs. Afterwards, participants will receive a list of their mutual platonic attractions.

To get the conversations rolling, Frank plans to ask participants some funny questions such as, "What was the most ridiculous thing you have done because of sleep deprivation?" She will also put butcher paper and crayons on each table so that the lovebirds — well, mombirds — can write each other little notes.

*Speed Dating for Mom Friends at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, [www.thebellhouseny.com](http://www.thebellhouseny.com)]. Oct. 22 at 7 pm. \$25.*

— Danielle Furfaro

### MUSIC

## Family guy

Smokey Hormel's guitar playing is one of the worst kept secrets in rock.

The in-demand six-stringer has spent the better part of his career performing with some of the biggest names in the biz, including Justin Timberlake, Norah Jones, Tom Waits, and Johnny Cash.

When he is back home in New York, however, Hormel is a fixture of the Brooklyn music scene (though he resides in Manhattan), regularly playing more humble gigs at venues such as Sunny's in Red Hook and Barbes in Park Slope.

On Oct. 24 — after returning home from a tour with Beck — Hormel will be back at Barbes with his band Smokey's Secret Family. The group performs renditions of rhythm-heavy tunes that originated in Africa and Brazil in the early 1960s.

"I grew up interested in the not heavily-produced sound of late '50s and early '60s rock music," Hormel said. "I found that to be similar to the African music of the '60s. I thought, 'If I can play a rockabilly song, I should try out those tunes.'"

Hormel keeps the sound of the Secret Family sparse. The group has ballooned up to 10 members at times, but the core lineup includes a pair of percussionists, a tuba player, and a horn player backing up his groovy guitar licks.

"We never rehearse," he said of his band. "It's kind of like garage versus stadium rock. We're trying to hold on to the roughness and looseness of the original recordings."

And despite the big-name stars he performs with, Hormel said it is Smokey's Secret Family — along with his other steady gig, a throwback Western swing band called Smokey's Roundup — that really challenge his guitar-playing chops.

"When you play with three really exceptional Brazilian percussionists, it pushes you to a new level," said Hormel. "They push me to do something I wouldn't do alone. Living in New York and working with great musicians like that, I feel blessed at every gig."

*Smokey's Secret Family plays Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (347) 422-0248, [www.barbesbrooklyn.com](http://www.barbesbrooklyn.com)]. Oct. 24 at 10 pm. \$10.*

— Robert Ham

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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**FRIDAY**  
Oct. 17

**Contra code**  
Nothing contra-versial about this! Learn the art of contra dancing — a type of traditional group folk dancing — at ContraShock, a two-day festival hosted by Brooklyn Contra and Country Dance New York. The first night will be held in Brooklyn — get in early for beginners lessons, then dance the night away with music from bands Elixir and Mavish.  
*7:30 pm at Camp Friendship [339 Eighth St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, www.contrashock.org]. \$15.*

**SATURDAY**  
Oct. 18

**Cult-ure club**  
Freddy's Bar's monthly cult movie trivia night is getting into the spirit of the season, with a cult movie Halloween costume contest. Forget zombies and superheroes — dress up as the Dude, Nigel Tufnel, Ash Williams, or Janet Weiss if you want to win this one.  
*7 pm at Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Park Slope, (718) 768-0131, www.freddysbar.com]. Free.*



**SUNDAY**  
Oct. 19

**Art crawl**  
From Friday through Sunday, artists across Gowanus will open their studios up to the unwashed masses for Gowanus Open Studios. Roam the locations at your own leisure — there are a bunch of maps for themed, self-guided tours on topics such as "Erotic Art" and "Animals and Art" on the event website — or join one of several guided tours led by local curators.  
*Noon–6 pm at various locations around Gowanus (www.artsgowanus.org/gowanus-open-studios-2014). Free, guided tours \$20.*

**MONDAY**  
Oct. 20

**Spears for fears**  
Hack and slash me baby one more time! The latest edition of the Hastily Written Masterpiece Starring the Audience will feature Britney Spears songs and a Halloween theme. Will it be as scary as her performance at the 2007 MTV Video Music Awards? "Cross-roads?" That time she and Justin Timberlake wore matching head-to-toe denim? Time will tell.  
*8 pm at Friends and Lovers (641 Classon Ave. between Pacific and Dean streets in Prospect Heights, meatballpre-sents.tumblr.com). \$10.*



**THURSDAY**  
Oct. 23

**Chewing the fat**  
Talk about a meaty conversation! Downtown Texas barbecue emporium Hill Country is starting a new live interview series called the Brisket Sessions, hosted by business journalist and Brooklynite Dan Roth. The first guest is late-night television host and former "Saturday Night Live" star Seth Meyers, so expect a side of laughter with your ribs.  
*6:30 pm at Hill Country Barbecue [345 Adams St. at Willoughby Street Downtown, (718) 885-4608, www.hillcountrybk.com]. Free.*



# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**FRI, OCT. 17**  
**ART, "HASIDIM OF CROWN HEIGHTS — A COMMUNITY STUDY":** Artist Chie Nishio presents an exhibition of the Hasidic religious community through female point of view. **Free.** 9 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Public Library Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.  
**MUSIC, SPANGLISH FLY, HUNGRY MARCH BAND, UNDERGROUND HORNS, BATALA NYC:** Friday night gala, part of Honk NYC! **Free.** 7 pm. Gowanus Ballroom [55 Ninth St. between Smith St. and Second Avenue in Gowanus, (347) 460-2687], www.gowanusballroom.com.  
**DANCE, L.A. DANCE PROJECT:** L.A. Dance Project's New York City debut. Includes performances "Reflections," "Murder Ballades," and "Quintett." \$20. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org.  
**FILM, "RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK":** Part of Carroll Park's Fall Movie series. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Carroll Park (Court St. between Carroll and President streets).  
**THEATER, "PORT BOU":** The premiere of new opera by composer and performer Elliott Sharp, depicting the final moments of philosopher Walter Benjamin's life as he flees Nazi-occupied France. \$20–\$35 (\$15 members and students). 8 pm. Issue Project Room [22 Boerum Pl. at Livingston Street in Downtown, (718) 330-0313], www.issueprojectroom.org.

**SAT, OCT. 18**  
**MUSIC, KINOBE AND THE WAMU SPIRIT:** **Free.** 9:30 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live.  
**TALK, "PRATT UPLOAD — MEME, YOU, AND EVERYONE WE FOLLOW":** A series of free panel discussions and workshops with artists, curators, and writers working in new media and digital arts. **Free.** 10 am–10 pm. Pratt Institute, Myrtle Hall (215 Willoughby Ave. between Emerson Place and Hall Street in Clinton Hill), www.pratt.edu.  
**SPRING TREE GIVEAWAY:** Pratt Area Community Council is giving away fig, paw paw, apricot, and peach trees for free. Trees are first-serve, or you can pre-register. **Free.** 11 am–1 pm. Magnolia Plaza (686 Lafayette Ave. between Marcy and Tompkins avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant), www.nyrp.org/tree-giveaways.  
**ART, "TSUKASA KANAWA X SHINYA KATO — CLOSE ENOUGH TO WALK APART":** Joint exhibition.. **Free.** 3–6 pm. ShapeShifter Lab [18 Whiwell Pl. between First and Carroll streets in Gowanus, 646-820-9452], www.shapeshifterlab.com.

**SUN, OCT. 19**  
**THE GREEN DAY:** The Nets take on the Celtics in a preseason game at Barclays Center Oct. 19.

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**SUN, OCT. 19**  
**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. BOSTON CELTICS:** Preseason game. \$22–\$300. 3 pm.

**MON, OCT. 20**  
**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS:** Pre-season game. \$20–\$250. 7:30 pm.

**SAT, OCT. 25**  
**MUSIC, A NIGHT OF WORSHIP TO SAVE OUR YOUTH GOSPEL EXPLOSION:** Featuring gospel artists Bishop Hezekiah Walker, Yolanda Adams, and Erica Campbell. \$49.50–\$99.50. 7 pm.

**MON, OCT. 27**  
**MUSIC, DEMI LOVATO:** With guests Christina Perri and MKTO. \$35–\$69.50. 7 pm.

**620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com.**

**THURS, OCT. 30**  
**MUSIC, POWERHOUSE 2014:** Featuring J. Cole, Ne-Yo, Young Jeezy, Kid Ink, T.I., Childish Gambino, French Montana, Migos, Tinashe and Bobby Shmurda. \$19.99–\$199. 7 pm.

**FRI, OCT. 31**  
**MUSIC, BOO:** Halloween dance party featuring Knife Party, DJ Snake, Tommy Trash, Tchami, and Milo and Otis, and Craze. \$29.50–\$85. 7 pm.


**MON, NOV. 3**  
**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER:** \$69–\$4,000. 7:30 pm.

**WED, NOV. 5**  
**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES:** \$20–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

**MON, OCT. 20**  
**COMEDY, BROOKLYN, STAND UP!** Hosted by Kerry Coddett and Cipa Sounds, with comedians Leah Bonnema, Monroe Martin III, Nimesh Patel, Sheng Wang, and Michelle Wolf. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], bk.knittingfactory.com.  
**MUSIC, LEWIS & CLARKE, WHARFER, NORWEIGAN ARMS:** \$10. 8:30 pm. Glasslands (289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg), www.glasslands.com.

**TUES, OCT. 21**  
**MUSIC, DIIV, SPLASHH, PAWS, NUNS, BEACH DAY:** \$20–\$25. 7 pm. Brooklyn Night Bazaar (165 Banker St. at Norman Avenue in Greenpoint), www.bkbazaar.com.  
**MUSIC, WAMPIRE, CYMBALS, DUNE RATS, CASUAL SEX:** \$12 (\$10 advance). 8 pm. Glasslands (289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street in Williamsburg), www.glasslands.com.

See 9 DAYS on page 10

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# You’re eating it wrong!

*New book builds a better grilled cheese sandwich*

**By Danielle Furfaro**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

**D**an Pashman is a picky eater — but not in the usual way. Pashman, creator of food podcast the Sporkful, will eat almost anything — but only after he has rearranged it all.

“I always put a lot of thought into the most basic details of the eating experience,” said Pashman. “My friends who have known me for a long time know that I will always start rebuilding any sandwich and rearranging it. They cannot believe I turned this into a job.”

Now, Pashman has written a whole book dedicated to his meal improvements, which he will bring to BookCourt in Cobble Hill on Oct. 22. In “Eat More Better,” Pashman analyzes the intricacies of every ingredient — the amount of sauce that various types of pasta will hold, the proper way to layer a sandwich to prevent slippage — in an effort to make common meals even tastier through math and science.

Many of Pashman’s recommendations sound absurd at first — until you understand the logic behind them. For instance, he argues that grilled cheese should be served vertically on its end — so it looks like a mountain — instead of laying flat on a plate. It looks weird, but helps prevent avoid soggy bread, which is caused by condensation created when the hot sandwich touches the cold dish. Pashman also advocates



**Serious research:** Dan Pashman studies the science of deliciousness.

eating cupcakes upside down, because you taste the frosting more when it is closer to your tongue.

“A lot of this is looking at very simple and universal foods in a new way,” said Pashman. “Since people have seen these foods so many times before, they think there is no other

way to think about them. But I see it as a challenge.”

The thick, hardcover book is arranged like a high-school science textbook, with diagrams, pull-out sections, and fun facts.

“I wanted to organize it in a way that was different from a cookbook,

because it is not a cookbook,” said Pashman. “It struck me that this all feels very academic. I feel like there is a quirky kind of research I do whenever I eat.”

Brooklyn Heights restaurant Jack the Horse Tavern will be on hand at the BookCourt event to serve up its macaroni and cheese, which Pashman believes is the best in Brooklyn.

“It is creamy and just a little bit tangy, just as it should be,” he said. “And they use pasta with ridges, which is going to hold sauce better, and pasta is just a cheese delivery system anyway.”

*Dan Pashman at BookCourt [163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875–3677, [www.bookcourt.com](http://www.bookcourt.com)] Oct. 22 at 7 pm. Free.*

## 9 DAYS...

*Continued from page 8*  
**WED, OCT. 22**

**MUSIC, MINIBOONE, JOHNNY LEWIS, MOUNT SHARP, TIGER! S---! TIGER! TIGER!, WHISKEY BITCHES:** \$10 (\$8). 6:30 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230–5740], [www.therockshopny.com](http://www.therockshopny.com).

**TALK, “HOW TO LOOK INSIDE THE BRAIN”:** Lecture by Carl Schoonover on the history of human exploration of the brain. \$8. 8 pm. Morbid Anatomy Museum [424 Third Ave. at Seventh Street in Gowanus, (347) 799–1017], [www.morbidanatomy-museum.org](http://www.morbidanatomy-museum.org).

**THURS, OCT. 23**

**TALK, JONATHAN LETHEM:** On “The Fortress of Solitude” and the streets of 1970s Brooklyn. \$10 (\$5 for BHS and Green-Wood members). 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org).

**COMEDY, SETH HERZOG, CHRISTIAN FINNEGAN, DAMIEN LEMON, DAN SODER, MICHELLE WOLF:** Comedy night to raise funds for Stand Up for Rockaway. \$30 (\$25 advance). 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], [www.thebell-house.com](http://www.thebell-house.com).

**MUSIC, HAUNTING RENDITIONS LIVE WITH ELIOT GLAZER:** Comedian and vocalist turns pop songs into ballads. \$8. 9:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com).



**She had to leave Los Angeles:** The L.A. Dance Project makes its New York debut at the Brooklyn Academy of Music Oct. 16–18.

**FRI, OCT. 24**

**TOUR, HAUNTED BROOKLYN HEIGHTS TOUR:** Horror author Andrea Janes leads a walking tour of frightening sites. \$20. 7:00pm. [140 Court St. at Pacific Street in Brooklyn Heights, (646) 932–0680], [www.boroughsofthedeath.com](http://www.boroughsofthedeath.com).

**THEATER, THE DINNER PARTY — A WHODUNIT CABARET:** A dance and circus themed murder-mystery dinner. 20 (\$15). 7 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 222–8500], [www.galapagosartspace.com](http://www.galapagosartspace.com).

**MUSIC, GREG BARRIS’ HEART OF DARKNESS:** Comedy and music with the Forgiveness, Dave Hill, Mind Warrior. \$10. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com).

**SAT, OCT. 25**

**MUSICAL HAUNTED HOUSE EXTRAVAGANZA:** A haunted house featuring musical figures and tradi-

tions. \$5. 2 pm. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse [126 St. Felix St. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 638–5660], [brooklyn-musicschool.org](http://brooklyn-musicschool.org).

**GREAT PUPKIN DOG COSTUME CONTEST:** Fort Greene Pup’s 16th annual dog costume contest. **Free.** 11 am. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center [Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 722–3218].

**BOO AT PROSPECT ZOO:** Take a trip through the haunted barn and show off costumes at the parade and dance party. **Free** with zoo admission. 11 am–4 pm. Prospect Park Zoo [450 Flatbush Ave. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 399–7339], [www.prospect-parkzoo.com](http://www.prospect-parkzoo.com).

**ART, BARTER TOWN:** An interactive installation where visitors bring songs, ideas, goods, services, or handmade art to trade. **Free** with museum admission. 1–5 pm. Brooklyn Museum [1200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], [www.brooklyn-museum.org](http://www.brooklyn-museum.org).



**Booze-um buddies:** Chris Wertz, left, and Peter Fornatale are the liquor lovers behind “Brooklyn Spirits: Craft Distilling and Cocktails from the World’s Hippest Borough.”

## Spirited celebration

*Book highlights local liquor and libations*

**By Vanessa Ogle**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

**L**overs of both booze and Brooklyn are going to drink this up! A pair of cocktail connoisseurs have penned a tribute to locally-made liquors — and the drinks you can make with them. “Brooklyn Spirits: Craft Distilling and Cocktails from the World’s Hippest Borough” highlights borough booze-makers such as Greenhook Ginsmiths and Industry City Distilling, alongside about 70 cocktail recipes.

And you don’t need to be an expert mixologist to make



them. Most of the drinks require minimal preparation, because when it comes to mixing liquors, there is such a thing as too much alcohol, one of the authors said.

“The easiest way to mess one up is to use too many ingredients and follow a recipe too closely,” said Chris Wertz, who co-authored the book with his pal Peter Thomas Fornatale. “The easiest way to make a cocktail is to barely touch it.”

The book began as a collection of random recipes the duo, both former bartenders, had created

themselves. But during their research, it turned into a collaboration with Brooklyn’s best bars, distilleries, and liquor luminaries, highlighting classic and original cocktail they have created using Brooklyn-made spirits.

“As we started going forward and meeting these incredible people, it just became natural to highlight what they were doing,” said Wertz. “My philosophy for cocktails is how the book came together — the best ingredients rose to the top.”

Fornatale will discuss the book at the Brooklyn Central Library in Prospect Heights on Oct. 23.

“*Brooklyn Spirits: Craft Distilling and Cocktails from the World’s Hippest Borough*” at the Central Library [10 Grand Army Plaza, near Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230–2100, [brooklynspirits.brownpapertickets.com](http://brooklynspirits.brownpapertickets.com)]. Oct. 23 at 7 pm. **Free.**

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# Paws-some

## Shaman blesses dogs at Grand Army Plaza event

By Matthew Perlman  
The Brooklyn Paper

These dogs get blessed in show.

A Prospect Heights mystic worked her magic on a bunch of fidos on Oct. 11, offering her rendition of the Catholic blessing of the animals for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, which took place at churches across Brooklyn the week prior. Getting a pagan shaman to imbue your pet with good vibes at Grand Army Plaza was a no-brainer for pet owners who participated, according to the shaman herself.

“If you offer a blessing to a dog, who’s going to say no?” said Donna “Mama Donna” Henes, who has been performing rituals for the last 40 years. “It’s nondenominational. Not religious. It’s just a Mother Earth blessing.”

This was Henes’s second year giving pups her supposedly holy touch, but she has hosted equinox and solstice celebrations in the shadow

of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Arch for decades, she said. The plaza’s circular shape and relative calm, she explained, make it perfect for communing with the gods.

“We started calling it ‘Mama Donna’s Plaza,’” she said. “We really claimed it as a ceremonial place.”

For the animal blessing, Henes laid out a ring of red cloth near the plaza’s fountain and invited passing pooches and their human companions to be consecrated. She sprinkled participating pets with a special oil she calls the “Juicy Fruits of Life,” and gave each a brightly colored sticker that stood in for an Indian bindi. She then asked the universe to provide the pets what they want most:

“Long naps, long walks, toys, treats, and lots of love,” Henes said.

Park Slope resident Elizabeth Pongo and her dog Sascha were on their way to get some dog food when they stumbled on Henes’s bless-



Shaman Donna “Mama Donna” Henes gives dog Sascha a post-blessing treat as her human companion, Elizabeth Pongo, looks on.

ing session.

“I thought, ‘Why not?’” said Pongo, who runs a personal training business. “Sascha’s a New Yorker. She has a stressful life sometimes.”

Other recipients of the spiritual spruce-up came from

Henes’s inner circle. Megan Sheehan, who considers Henes her personal shaman, volunteered to lend a hand with the rites, and brought along her Boston terrier, Andy, to get in Gaia’s good graces.

Sheehan respects Henes

for more than just her transcendental traits, she said.

“She’s just an amazing woman,” Sheehan said. “Whether it’s spiritual guidance, or knowledge about things. She’s just kind of an expert at life.”

# Bellhop checkup

## Hotel union getting flashy health center

By Matthew Perlman  
The Brooklyn Paper

This futuristic high-rise building on Fulton Street is just what the doctor ordered, according to the hotel workers union building it.

The New York Hotel Trades Council and Hotel Association of New York City is planning a 12-story structure where a parking lot currently sits, between Ashland

Place and Saint Felix Street. The building is supposed to include ground-floor retail, a five-story health facility for members of the union, and office space. It may not be overtly artsy on the inside but its architect, who released designs for the building last week, said that the shiny, teardrop-shaped edifice will fit right in amid the so-called “Brooklyn Cultural District”

along Fulton Street, which this paper has dubbed Brooklyn’s Great White Way.

“We want the new building to welcome patients, office workers, and local residents alike to this up-and-coming district,” said James Crispino, president of the design firm Francis Cauffman.

The union runs three other medical centers in the city and they, together with a smaller Brooklyn outpost that the new building will replace, served 50,000 people last year, it said. The organization provides members medical coverage through its own network of healthcare facilities, offering an alternative to typical health insurance, and the new facility will improve that, a honcho said.

“Above all, we want our members to enjoy an unmatched healthcare experience,” Robert Greenspan, executive director of the union’s healthcare services.



A 12-story building, which is supposed to house a medical center for members of a hotel workers union, is coming to Fulton Street.

An unnamed tenant has committed to taking more than half of the rentable office space but has not yet signed a lease, the union said. A real estate expert noted that such a thing hasn’t happened in Fort Greene or Downtown since MetroTech Center was being built.

“To get a pre-construction

commitment is huge,” said Chris Havens, a commercial broker for aptsandlofts.com. “People looking to Brooklyn don’t usually think that far in advance.”

The union has not announced who the tenant will be, but Havens suspects it may have something to do with healthcare.

### Body in backyard

The Brooklyn Paper

Police found skeletal human remains in the backyard of a Crown Heights building on Oct. 9, following a tip that came out of a federal drug investigation, according to reports.

Officers dug the body out of a shallow grave in the dirt backyard of a building on Saint Johns Place between Franklin and Bedford avenues. The body may belong to a man murdered more than a decade ago, the New York Times reported.

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# Transgender woman beaten in Bushwick

## Neighbors, activists rally to suport trans people in wake of apparent hate crime

By Danielle Furfaro and Andy Humm  
The Brooklyn Paper

A transgender woman was beaten by four men on a Bushwick street at about 11:20 pm on Oct. 12, according to the police.

The attack, which police say occurred outside of 1250 Bushwick Ave. near Halsey Street and involved the perpetrators making “anti-gay statements,” is being investigated by the NYPD’s Hate Crime Task Force. The 28-year-old victim, whose name has not been released, was a client of New Alternatives for Homeless

LGBT Youth. Kate Barnhart, the group’s executive director, said the victim was walking with a gay friend when the men approached “and asked what they were doing in the neighborhood.”

“When they figured out from her voice that she was transgender, they starting calling her a ‘f---t’ and beating her with a two-by-four,” Barnhart said.

Media reports have cited NYPD sources describing the weapon as a plexiglass board.

The victim’s friend was able to escape without injury,



Photo by Arthur De Gasta

Priest Mark Erson of Manhattan’s Saint John’s Lutheran said trans people need support.

Barnhart said. A bystander captured cellphone video of the incident and police retrieved surveillance video, as well as the weapon used in the attack, she said.

The victim is in stable condition, but it is not clear if she will suffer brain damage, according to Barnhart.

The victim was in critical condition at the time she was transported to Elmhurst Hospital Center in Queens, cops said.

The attack was the second apparent hate crime targeting gay and transgender people in Bushwick in a span of just

more than two weeks.

Three men have been charged in connection with the shooting of a 22-year-old man on Sept. 27 at about 7 am on Broadway near Putnam Avenue.

The victim identifies as a gay man and was, along with several friends, dressed in feminine clothing when they were approached by three men who yelled slurs including “f---t” and “tranny,” according to media reports, prosecutors, and the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

When the victim and his friends tried to escape, one



Photo by Arthur De Gasta

Sasha Alexander talks about his experiences getting harassed in Bushwick at a rally on Tuesday night.

of the suspects shot him in the buttocks. He was treated at Brookdale Hospital and released.

For that attack, police charged a 21-year-old with attempted murder, assault, criminal possession of a weapon, and menacing, all as hate crimes. A 22-year-old and a 17-year-old were charged with menacing and aggravated harassment, both as hate crimes.

Gay and transgender Bushwick residents rallied alongside neighbors, activists, and clergy members at the scene of the most recent assault on Tuesday night to share stories of harassment and call for an end to bias-fueled violence.

“I have to take a cab to performances. If I do not, I get harassed from the minute I walk out my door,” said drag performer Crimson Kitty, of Bushwick. “We have to take back our streets and get support for all walks of life.”

One religious leader who serves homeless gay and transgender youth at his Manhattan church said more people need to pitch in to keep streets safe for trans people.

“The trans community continues to feel left behind, and I want them to know that they have allies and support,” said priest Mark Erson, of Saint John’s Lutheran Church.

— with Paul Schindler

## TEENS...

Continued from page 1

“Sometimes there are too many. They block the doors, they hang out when we need seats for other customers, but it’s not so bad,” said Renato Vilardo, manager of La Bruschetta Pizza between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Luke Vargas, a neighbor who lives above a yogurt shop a few blocks from the school, said youths gather in the neighborhood, but that he has never seen cops break them up. Vargas is a radio reporter who sometimes works from home and said that, while the noise can interfere with his recording, the crowds don’t stick around.

“They clear out pretty early,” he said.

John Jay High School once occupied the whole school building, but closed in 2001 after decades during which it gained a reputation as a crime-ridden dump.

Now-head of the Department of Education Carmen Farina oversaw the merging

of three existing schools onto the John Jay campus as district superintendent in 2001. That scheme failed and, in 2004, the schools split but remained shoulder-to-shoulder.

A majority of students at the schools are non-white and live outside of Park Slope. The administration of Park Slope Collegiate, a middle school and high school, has made racial and economic integration a priority and, to that end, has resisted implementing student tracking, but has struggled to entice white parents from the affluent neighborhood to enroll their kids, as New York Magazine reported. The selective Millenium Brooklyn High School opened in the building in 2011 over protests saying it would further entrench patterns of racial segregation, including disproportionate resource allocation, in neighborhood public schools.

— with Noah Hurowitz



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